

Minutes of the Veneta City Council

April 9, 2007

Council

Present: Mayor T. J. Brooker, Darrell Carman, Thomas Cotter, Sharon Hobart-Hardin

Absent: Marion Esty

Others: Ric Ingham, City Administrator; Margaret Boutell, Community Services Directory; Darci Henneman, Assistant City Recorder; Mona Linstromberg, Linda Boothe, and Jeneca Jones, West Lane News

Mayor Brooker called the Veneta City Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Joan Mariner, 25712 Cochran Ct., Veneta, Oregon

Representing ART, Inc., Joan Mariner, thanked the Council for the use of the Community Center for their rehearsals of their upcoming play "Lumberjacks and Weddingbells". She said showings are on Saturday, May 5th and May 12th at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday May 6th and May 13th at 2:30. Joan said as a Mother's Day special, Sunday May 13th Our Daily Bread is offering brunch along with the matinee for \$25 per person. Tickets will be on sale at Our Daily Bread the first two weekends of May. On behalf of ART, Inc., she is requesting the use of six tables and 40 chairs from the Community Center.

Linda Boothe; 25331 Jeans Road; Veneta, Oregon

Representing the Fern Ridge Chamber, Linda Boothe invited the Council to a meeting the Chamber is holding at Wings Restaurant at noon on Wednesday, April 11, 2007. The purpose of the meeting is to present the branding work which has been done for the Chamber. The work includes a logo and slogan reflecting the unique qualities of the Fern Ridge area. Linda also said the Chamber is interviewing for an Economic Development Director. The applicant will be announced in late April. She also said the construction for the new Chamber office is underway.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Sharon Hobart Hardin made a motion to approve the consent agenda as amended. Thomas Cotter seconded the motion.

Vote: Thomas Cotter, aye; Mayor Brooker, aye; Darrell Carman, aye; and Sharon Hobart-Hardin, aye.

The consent agenda as approved included the minutes for March 26, 2007, Bill Payables for March/April 2007, Liquor License Change of Ownership - Shell Station and the Public Works Report for March 2007.

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a. FROM MAYOR/COUNCILORS

(1) Appointment to the Parks Board

Mayor Brooker appointed Denise Hand to the adult seat and Maggie Tallmadge to the youth seat as the newest members of the Parks Board.

(2) Appointment to the Budget Committee
Mayor Brooker made the appointments of Scott Sanders and Fred Miller as the new Budget Committee members. He said the application process will be held open for a while longer to fill the third position.

b. COUNCIL/COMMITTEE LIAISONS

Sharon said Gail Wilkie was elected as the Parks Board Chair again. She said the Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success with the help of many volunteers including students from the Key Club, Neighbors 4 Responsible Growth, and Boy Scout troop. Every child received a stuffed animal and three eggs filled with candy. She wanted to remind everyone that Earth Day will be Saturday, April 21 at Territorial Park. Clean up volunteers will be awarded with a barbecue lunch sponsored by the Kiwanis. A list of volunteers will be kept for future volunteer projects.

Margaret said Logan Loftus, an Eagle Scout, was a major volunteer contributor to the Easter egg hunt. She said he took it on as his scout project and as part of that he created an outline for organizing future Easter Egg Hunts.

Mayor Brooker suggested giving Logan a Certificate of Appreciation. Darrell suggested the award should be presented to him at one of his scout meetings so his fellow scouts could see the City's appreciation of his efforts. Thomas Cotter suggested the Mayor present his award.

Mayor Brooker said the final staff/council compensation committee meeting should be held this week.

4. a. COMMUNITY SERVICE DIRECTOR. MARGARET BOUTELL

(1) Acquisition of Territorial Sports Fields

Resolution 938 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF VENETA TO APPLY FOR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT FROM THE OREGON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR ACQUISITION OF THE TERRITORIAL SPORTS FIELDS ON BOLTON HILL ROAD AND DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE APPLICATION.

Margaret said Resolution 938 is required in order for the City to apply for a local government grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept. to purchase the Territorial Sport Program property. Margaret pointed out in the Councils' packets there were two minor changes to be made to Resolution 938. She said in the third "WHEREAS" of the resolution "city council" should be capitalized and in the fifth "WHEREAS", the word "applicant" should be changed to "City". These changes were made to the original Resolution 938 for Mayor Brooker's signature.

Margaret said the City is using the existing property purchased from Lane County (the Public Works Yard) to be the City's match of donated land to the grant request from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

In response to a question from Mayor Brooker, Margaret said the proposal is for the City to acquire and consider all the property as park land, including the existing Public Works Yard. Margaret said this property acquisition is also in the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

In response to a question from Darrell Carman, Margaret said the City is attempting to purchase the entire sports complex.

Sharon Hobart-Hardin said purchasing the sports fields has been a number one priority for the Parks Board.

MOTION: Thomas Cotter made a motion to approve Resolution 938. Sharon Hobart-Hardin seconded the motion, which passed with a vote of 4-0.

(2) Bolton Hill Rd. Improvement Project Comments

On March 29, 2007 the City received notification from Lane County that the original design concept for the Bolton Hill Road Improvement project would be altered. Margaret said the Committee is accepting written comments on the revised design until April 27, 2007.

Margaret drafted a letter of comment for the Mayor to sign. The letter said the City supports the alteration which would eliminate the turn lane between 8th St. and Territorial Rd. and the realignment of the 8th St. intersection.

Darrell Carman said the alteration makes more sense than having three lanes the length of Bolton Hill.

Margaret said eliminating the realignment would reduce the construction cost by \$100,000.

Councilors felt the letter Margaret wrote covered all necessary comments and directed staff to send the letter to the appropriate authority.

In response to a question from Thomas Cotter, Ric said the franchise fees paid to EPUD are a flat 5% of the sales within the City limits for electricity.

Thomas Cotter suggested the City get "Green" by purchasing solar lights.

Ric said he would look into it but previously, he discussed using solar lighting with Joe Savage from EPUD and there was a concern that during winter months solar lighting may not provide enough light.

Ric said the City is not paying a franchise fee on the amount reimbursed to EPUD for street lights. He said EPUD pays the City a franchise fee to operate within the City limits.

Margaret said it was her understanding the City pays a flat fee "per pole" because EPUD does all the maintenance on the poles which also includes the actual electricity per pole.

c. CITY ADMINISTRATOR RIC INGHAM
(1) Parks and Recreation District

Ric needs some clarification on the information being requested from Carl Sherwood, the architect hired to create a conceptual pool design. Based on the March 26 Council minutes, there is a desire for information on the development of a Parks and Recreation District. In addition, comments were made regarding the Council's desire to have the conceptual design incorporate additional lanes to accommodate competitive events and therapeutic uses. Ric suggested that Carl should come back with three conceptual design options: 1) the initial pool that includes the above mentioned items plus elements that would allow for a future year round cover to be placed over the pool; 2) the second concept would include the full-blown indoor design; and 3) to utilize the information in the community surveys which would include more in

depth questions on creating a Parks and Recreation District. Ric said he questioned even spending the effort on researching a Parks and Recreation District until we understand the financial aspects of a District.

If the three scenarios are explored it will give the Council an idea of what to expect as far as construction and continual operating costs. Ric suggested that Carl could develop three different designs including estimated construction costs for each design, at an additional cost of \$2,200.

Darrell Carman felt in order to have thorough surveys the City may be required to conduct two; one for City residents and one for outlying areas.

Ric said the City should first conduct a survey for City residents to see what they want and what they are willing to support and then possibly a survey for outlying residents.

In response to a questions from Darrell Carman, Ric said a Parks and Recreation District could be formed with or without a monetary or tax base in the formatting of the District. If funding for the District is requested, residents could pay for it with either a construction bond, which residents wouldn't pay for the bond above and beyond a \$10 cap; or District residents could also agree to an operating levy saying they will pay above the \$10 cap. Ric said it wouldn't be like the Fire District that takes a portion of the \$10, it would be above and beyond that.

In response to a question from Mayor Brooker, Ric said a Parks and Recreation District would be another taxing district that you are asking the voters to approve but it would exceed the \$10 cap.

Ric said that if and when we complete our Urban Renewal build out, the cap could be effected enough to roll it back into the City's regular tax rate and, with our tax base continuing to grow, another district could be formed.

In response to a question from Darrell Carman, Ric said if an operating levy were used, it could be a permanent levy, which would be part of the \$10 cap.

Margaret said Willamalane Parks and Recreation District has a permanent levy.

Thomas Cotter said just by having more population doesn't necessarily make the City move out of compression. Ric said the amount of compression the City has been in has decreased for the last three years.

Thomas Cotter asked for an explanation of compression. Ric said specific questions should be asked prior to the budget committee meetings so research can be done and answers could be provided at those meetings.

Mayor Brooker agreed the compression issue is confusing. He said for several years the City was just short of compression but because the growth we've recently had, we've backed away from compression for the last three years but we still don't know how close we are to compression and what are the elements that may push us into it.

Ric said he wanted to make sure staff will be able to deliver what Council requested at the last

meeting regarding researching a Parks and Recreation District and three different scenarios; 1) the basic replacement pool; 2) adding competition and/or therapeutic pool elements and expanding the facility to include a cover to be constructed at a later date; and 3) a year round indoor facility.

In response to a question from Darrell Carman, Ric said in order for Carl to create three designs and provide construction cost estimates for each, he is requesting a contract increase of \$2,200 over and above the original contract price of \$10,000.

MOTION: Sharon Hobart-Hardin made a motion to increase Carl Sherwood's contract based upon the request for changes in the conceptual designs and authorize staff to pay for the increase from the appropriate fund. Darrell Carman seconded the motion.

Thomas Cotter suggested the motion be limited to \$2,200.

MOTION: Sharon Hobart-Hardin amended her motion to add an additional \$2,200 to the contract. Darrell Carman seconded the motion, which passed with a vote of 4-0.

5. OTHER

Margaret said prior to the budget process for the upcoming fiscal year, a work session is scheduled for April 18, 2007 to discuss: 1) evaluate code enforcement/nuisance abatement policies; 2) review LID policies and process; and 3) evaluate the addition of a city sponsored recreation program.

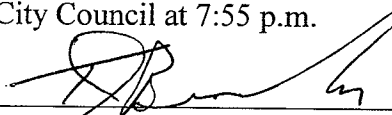
Thomas Cotter suggested the City advertise in the West Lane News that we will provide a shredder truck on clean up day if people want to shred their sensitive documents. He also suggested the City provide a bus to and from the West Lane Center to the Oregon Country Fair once or twice a day. He said this would help reduce local traffic.

Darrell suggested the Country Fair provide transportation twice a day, since they already pay for the Lane Transit District (LTD) busses from Eugene.

Darrell Carman said there have been a group of people racing four wheelers on the Southwest Area Plan property. Margaret said Roy Hankin of Hayden Homes told them they can't ride there. Ric said he will notify deputies and citations will be issued.

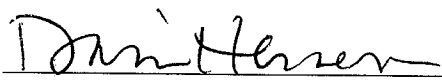
6. ADJOURN

Mayor Brooker adjourned the Veneta City Council at 7:55 p.m.



Mayor Brooker, Chairman

ATTEST:



Darci Henneman, Assistant City Recorder
(prepared by dhenneman)